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ABSTRACT

This booklet describes the Urdu writing system, and is part of a series of teaching materials for teaching Urdu. A general introduction outlining the main characteristics of the system is followed by a presentation of the alphabet. Letters symbolizing the same sound are then discussed, followed by the vowels. Non-connectors, or letters not having cursive linking to the following letter, are described, as well as connectors, which comprise all remaining letters. Ligatures, which are special combinations of two letters, are then presented, and the text concludes with a discussion of numbers and punctuation. A sample text is provided. (CLK)

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THE URDU WRITING SYSTEM

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EDUCATION & WELFARE
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EDUCATION

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Preface

The body of this description is reproduced from a manual produced at the Foreign Service Institute, Department of State, for use in teaching Urdu. It is specifically modelled on The Writing System of Modern Persian, by Herbert H. Paper and Mohammad Ali Jazayery (American Council of Learned Societies, 1955). The authors are grateful for the advice and assistance of Mr. S. J. Rana, Prof. John Gumpers, Mr. C. M. Nain, and Dr. Serge Obolensky.

Note on Transcription

The phonemic transcription of Urdu used in this work is the one which has been adopted for the teaching materials of the Foreign Service Institute. This is similar to the transcription of Heinrich Hoenigswald's Spoken Hindustani, in that long vowels are written with double letters and retroflex consonants with capital letters. It differs from Hoenigswald's transcription, however, in certain other features, particularly in distinguishing /y/ from /i/ and /v/ from /u/.

The segmental phonemes of spoken Urdu are considered to be the following:

Short vowels /i a u/, of wide distribution; /e o/ of limited distribution.

Long vowels /ii ee aa oo uu/; in addition, the diphthongs /ai au/ are

pronounced as long vowels [æː] and [oː] respectively by many speakers.

Voiceless unaspirated stops /p t T k q/, and palatal affricate /c/.

Voiceless aspirated stops /ph th Th kh/, and affricate /ch/.

Voiced unaspirated stops /b d D g/, and palatal affricate /j/.

Voiced aspirated stops /bh dh Dh gh/, and affricate /jh/.

Voiceless spirants /f s š x/.

Voiced spirants /v z y ɣ/; /ɣ/ is rare, tending to be replaced by /z/.

Vibrants /r/ (an alveolar trill or flap), /R/ (a retroflex flap), and aspirated /Rh/.

Glottal /ʔ/ (tending to be replaced by zero) and /h/.

A segmental phoneme of nasalization is symbolised by /~/.

THE URDU WRITING SYSTEM

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0. General

Urdu is customarily written and printed in a system adapted from the Persian—which is itself an adaptation of the Arabic system. Urdu is written with 35 letters, plus a number of supplementary signs.

While Urdu writing has basically the same forms whether printed or hand-written, slight differences do exist. Since many Pakistani publications are lithographed from handwriting, rather than printed, both styles are important to the student, and will be presented here.

Urdu writing has the following important characteristics:

2.

- a. Urdu is written and printed from right to left.
- b. All of the consonants of the language are distinguished in the writing. Among long vowels, however, several sounds may be written with the same syllable. Short vowels are usually not indicated at all.
- c. The manner of writing and printing is cursive; most letters are connected to letters which precede and follow them in the same word.
- d. There are no capital letters.
- e. Most of the letters have four variant shapes, depending on whether or not they are connected to adjacent letters. These shapes will be called initial, medial, final, and independent.
- f. Some letters share a single basic form and are distinguished by dots and other signs written above, below, or inside the basic form.

1. The Alphabet

The following list shows the letters of the Urdu alphabet in their independent shapes—that is, as they appear when not connected to an adjacent letter. They are in the conventional alphabetic order used by Urdu dictionaries.

In printing, the letters have a fixed relation to an invisible horizontal line, here indicated by dashes on each side of the letters. In handwritten style, however, groups of connected letters tend to slope downward as they proceed toward the left.

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sound</u>
ا	alif	/aa/, or unspecified initial vowel
ب	bee	/b/
پ	pee	/p/
ت	tee	/t/
ٹ	Tee	/T/
ث	see	/s/
ج	jiim	/j/
چ	cee	/c/
ح	hee	/h/
خ	xee	/x/
د	daal	/d/
ڈ	Daal	/D/
ذ	zaal	/z/
ر	ree	/r/
ڑ	Ree	/R/
ز	zee	/z/
ژ	zee	/ʒ/ or /z/

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Sound</u>
س	siin	/s/
ش	Siin	/ʃ/
ص	svaad	/s/
ض	zvaad	/z/
ط	tooe	/t/
ظ	zoee	/z/
ع	ain	/ʔ/, unspecified initial vowel, /aa/
غ	yain	/ɣ/
ف	fee	/f/
ق	qaaf	/q/
ک	kaaf	/k/
گ	gaaf	/g/
ل	laam	/l/
م	miim	/m/
ن	nuun	/n/
و	vaao	/v/, /uu/, /oo/, /au/
ہ	hee	/h/
ی	yee	/y/, /i/, /ee/, /ai/

2. Letters Symbolizing the Same Sound

In a number of instances, several letters represent the same Urdu sound. In such cases, only one of them ordinarily occurs in words native to the Indian sub-continent; all of them, however, are found in loan words from Persian and Arabic.

<u>Sound</u>	<u>Letters</u>
/t/	ت <u>tee</u> in native words ط <u>tooe</u> in loan words
/s/	س <u>siin</u> in native words ص <u>see</u> in loan words ص <u>svaad</u>
/z/	ز <u>zee</u> in native words ز <u>zaal</u> ض <u>zvaad</u> in loan words ظ <u>zoee</u>
/h/	ہ <u>hee</u> in native words ح <u>hee</u> in loan words

3. Vowels

Written Urdu usually contains symbols only for the long vowels, as follows:

/aa/ is symbolized by ā alif maddaa (initial) and alif (elsewhere); see sec. 4.

/ii/, /ee/, and /ai/ are symbolized by ē yee; see sec. 8.7. At the end of words, /ee/ and /ai/ are distinguished by the variant form ē baRii yee (8.7.13ff.)

/um/, /oo/, and /au/ are symbolized by ū vaaco; see sec. 7.

In a few Arabic expressions, long vowel symbols are written, but short vowels are pronounced:

بالکل bilkul (written baa-) 'entirely'
فی الحال filhaal (written fii-) 'now'

بالکل
فی الحال

Certain symbols are occasionally used to indicate short vowels, and to distinguish between long vowels written with the same letter. These are written above and below the alphabetical symbols.

3.1. zabar is a stroke placed above a letter. It symbolizes /a/.

سب sab 'all'
ہم ham 'we'
غم gam 'grief'
اللہ al 'moment'

سب
ہم
غم
اللہ

3.2. When zabar is used with yee, it symbolizes /ai/ as opposed to /ii/ or /ee/.

ایسا aisa 'such'
میں mī 'I'
ہے hai 'is'
ٹھیلی thailii 'bag'

ایسا
میں
ہے
ٹھیلی

3.3. When zabar is used with vaaco, it symbolizes /au/ as opposed to /um/ or /oo/.

اور aur 'and'
فوج fauj 'army'
جو jau 'barley'
اولاد aulad 'children'

اور
فوج
جو
اولاد

3.4. zeer is a stroke placed below a letter. It symbolizes /i/.

دل dil 'heart'
دن din 'day'
ان in 'them'
ادھر idhar 'here'

دل
دن
ان
ادھر

3.5. When seer is used with yee, it symbolizes /ii/ as opposed to /ee/ or /ai/.

ایمان	iimaan 'honesty'	ایمان
ایران	iiraan 'Iran'	ایران
ایجاد	iijaad 'invention'	ایجاد
یقین	yaqin 'belief'	یقین

3.6. peeṣ is a hook placed above a letter. It symbolizes /u/

پل	pul 'bridge'	پل
تو	tum 'you'	تو
ان	un 'them'	ان
امید	umaid 'hope'	امید

3.7. When peeṣ is used with vaao, it symbolizes /uu/ as opposed to /oo/ or /au/.

اون	uun 'wool'	اون
خوب	xuub 'well'	خوب
چاقو	caaquu 'knife'	چاقو
کوچ	kuuc 'departure'	کوچ

3.8. jasm is a semicircle placed above a letter. It indicates that no vowel follows the consonant so marked.

دوست	doost 'friend'	دوست
علم	ilm 'knowledge'	علم
جسم	jism 'body'	جسم
خرج	xarc 'expenditure'	خرج

3.9. As all the above symbols are used only rarely, they are not written in the remainder of this description.

4. Non-Connectors

Non-connectors are letters which do not have a cursive linking to a following letter. They do connect to a preceding letter, however, if it is a connector. The non-connectors are | alif, د daal, ڈ Daal, ز zaal, , ree, ژ Ree, ; see, ج Jee, and , vaao.

The non-connector alif is characteristically a vertical stroke. Within a word, it symbolizes /aa/; at the beginning of a word, it simply indicates that the word begins with a vowel.

6.

4.1. alif has the final shape ل. Examples within words:

نام	naam 'name'	نام
ماہ	maah 'month'	ماہ
پاس	paas 'near'	پاس
یاد	yaad 'memory'	یاد

4.2. Examples of final alif at the end of words:

یا	yaa 'or'	یا
دینا	deenaa 'to give'	دینا
اچھا	acchaa 'good'	اچھا
آنا	aanaa 'anna'	آنا

4.3. alif has the independent shape ا. Examples at the beginning of words:

اب	ab 'now'	اب
ان	un 'him'	ان
اوپر	upar 'above'	اوپر
ایک	EEK 'one'	ایک

4.4. The modification ā, called alif madd or alif maddaa, is used at the beginning of words to symbolize /aa/.
 آج aaj 'today'
 آپ aap 'you'
 آنا aanaa 'anna'
 آلو aaluu 'potato'

In a few cases, alif madd also occurs within words, e.g.:

برآمدہ baraamdaa 'verandah' برآمدہ

4.5. Examples of independent alif within words:

دانت	daant 'tooth'	دانت
دادا	daadaa 'paternal grandfather'	دادا
راج	raaj 'rule'	راج
والد	vaalid 'father'	والد

4.6. Examples of independent alif at the end of words:

بڑا	baRaa 'big'	بڑا
دادا	daadaa 'paternal grandfather'	دادا
جوڑا	jooRaa 'pair'	جوڑا
میرا	meeraa 'my'	میرا

5. The non-connectors ج daal, ڈ Daal, and ز zaal all share the basic form ج.5.1. daal consists of the basic form standing alone.

5.1.1. It has the final shape ج. Examples within words:

بدن	badan 'body'	بدن
خدا	xudaa 'God'	خدا
بندر	bandar 'monkey'	بندر
چاندی	cañdii 'silver'	چاندی

5.1.2. Examples of final daal at the end of words:

چاند	cañd 'moon'	چاند
بند	band 'shut'	بند
چند	cand 'some'	چند
سفید	safeed 'white'	سفید

5.1.3. daal has the independent form ج. Examples at the beginning of words:

دور	duur 'far'	دور
دیر	deer 'delay'	دیر
دن	din 'day'	دن
دل	dil 'heart'	دل

5.1.4. Examples of independent daal within words:

دادا	daadaa 'paternal grandfather'	دادا
بادل	baadal 'cloud'	بادل
آداب	aadaab 'respect'	آداب
آدمی	aadmii 'man'	آدمی

8.

5.1.5. Examples of independent daal at the end of words:

درد	dard 'pain'	درد
یاد	yaad 'memory'	یاد
استاد	ustaad 'teacher'	استاد
بعد	baad 'after'	بعد

5.2. Daal has a small mark resembling the letter ط toooo written above the basic form.

5.2.1. It has the final shape ڈ. Examples within words:

ہڈی	haDDii 'bone'	ہڈی
ریڈیو	reeDiyoo 'radio'	ریڈیو
منڈی	manDii 'market-place'	منڈی
انڈا	anDaa 'egg'	انڈا

5.2.2. Examples of final Daal at the end of words:

رائڈ	raaD 'widow'	رائڈ
سانڈ	saaD 'bull'	سانڈ
ٹھنڈ	ThanD 'cold'	ٹھنڈ

5.2.3. Daal has the independent shape ڈ. Examples at the beginning of words:

ڈبل	Dabal 'extra large'	ڈبل
ڈبا	Dabbaa 'box'	ڈبا
ڈیڑھ	DeeRh '1 1/2'	ڈیڑھ
ڈاک	Daak 'mail'	ڈاک

5.2.4. Examples of independent Daal within words:

اڈا	aDDaa 'central place'	اڈا
-----	-----------------------	-----

سوڈا	socDaa 'soda'	سوڈا
لاڈلی	laaDlii 'darling'	لاڈلی

5.2.5. Examples of independent Daal at the end of words:

روڈ	rooD 'road'	روڈ
لاڈ	laaD 'affection'	لاڈ
کوڈ	kooD 'code'	کوڈ

5.3. zaal has one dot above the basic form. As a symbol for /z/, it is less common than zee (6.3.)

5.3.1. It has the final shape ز. Examples within words:

غذا	yizaa 'food'	غذا
عذاب	azaab 'misfortune'	عذاب
جذبہ	jasbaa 'passion'	جذبہ
مذبح	mazbah 'place of sacrifice'	مذبح

5.3.2. Examples of final zaal at the end of words:

کاغذ	kaayaz 'paper'	کاغذ
تھوڑا	taaviiz 'amulet'	تھوڑا

5.3.3. zaal has the independent shape ز. Examples at the beginning of words:

زریعہ	zariyaa 'method'	زریعہ
ذمہ	zimwah 'responsibility'	ذمہ
ذرا	saraa 'small quantity'	ذرا
ذوق	zauq 'taste'	ذوق

6. The non-connectors ,ree, Ree, ;see, and ;zee all contain the basic form ر.

6.1. ree consists of the basic form standing alone.

6.1.1. It has the final shape ر. Examples within words:

برس	baras 'year'	برس
فرق	farq 'difference'	فرق
عرض	arz 'request'	عرض
حرف	har- 'letter of alphabet'	حرف

6.1.2. Examples of final ree at the end of words:

ہر	har 'every'	ہر
پر	par 'on'	پر
دیر	deer 'delay'	دیر
وزیر	vezir 'minister of state'	وزیر

6.1.3. ree has the independent shape ,. Examples at the beginning of words:

رنگ	rang 'color'	رنگ
رات	raat 'night'	رات
روز	rooz 'day'	روز
رسی	rassii 'rope'	رسی

6.1.4. Examples of independent ree within words:

آرام	aaraam 'rest'	آرام
درد	dard 'pain'	درد
ارشاد	irshaad 'command'	ارشاد
درزی	darzii 'tailor'	درزی

6.1.5. Examples of independent ree at the end of words:

کار	kaar 'business'	کار
دور	duur 'far'	دور
حضور	hazuur 'sir'	حضور
زمیندار	zamiindaar 'landowner'	زمیندار

6.2. Ree has a small tooes above the basic form. Neither the sound /R/ nor the letter Ree occurs at the beginning of words.

6.2.1. Ree has the final shape ر. Examples within words:

بڑا	baRaa 'big'	بڑا
گھڑی	ghaRii 'clock'	گھڑی
لڑا	laRaa 'fought'	لڑا
پگڑی	pagRii 'turban'	پگڑی

6.2.2. Examples of final Ree at the end of words:

پاپر	paapaR 'a kind of wafer'	پاپر
دھڑ	dhaR 'bang!'	دھڑ
تھپڑ	thappaR 'a slap'	تھپڑ
بھیڑ	bhiir 'crowd'	بھیڑ

6.2.3. Ree has the independent shape ر. Examples within words:

گاڑی	gaaRii 'cart'	گاڑی
جوڑا	jooRaa 'pair'	جوڑا
تھوڑا	thooRaa 'a little'	تھوڑا
ٹوڑنا	tooRnaa 'to break'	ٹوڑنا

6.2.4. Examples of independent Ree at the end of words:

پہاڑ	pa'haaR 'mountain'	پہاڑ
موڑ	moor 'a turn'	موڑ
باڑ	baaR 'hedge'	باڑ
بال توڑ	baaltoor 'a boil'	بال توڑ

6.3. zee has one dot above the basic form. It is the commonest symbol for /z/.

6.3.1. It has the final shape ز. Examples within words:

نزدیک	nazdiik 'near'	نزدیک
منزل	manzil 'building'	منزل
مزا	mazaa 'enjoyment'	مزا
مزدور	mazduur 'laborer'	مزدور

6.3.2. Examples of final zee at the end of words:

سبز	sabz 'green'	سبز
چیز	ciiz 'thing'	چیز
گڑ	gaz 'yard (measure)'	گڑ
میز	meez 'table'	میز

6.3.3. zee has the independent shape ز. Examples at the beginning of words:

زور	zoor 'force'	زور
زیادہ	zyaadaa 'more'	زیادہ
زمین	zamiin 'land'	زمین
زبان	zabaan 'tongue'	زبان

6.3.4. Examples of independent zee within words:

بازار	baazaar 'market'	بازار
بازو	baazuu 'arm'	بازو
وزیر	vaziir 'minister of state'	وزیر
آزاد	aazaad 'free'	آزاد

6.3.5. Examples of independent zee at the end of words:

آواز	aavaaz 'voice'	آواز
روز	rooz 'day'	روز
جہاز	jahaaz 'ship'	جہاز
انداز	cndaaz 'manner'	انداز

6.4. zee has a triangle of dots above the basic form. It is very rare in Urdu, and is pronounced both as /z̤/ and as /z/. An example of the independent shape zee is as follows:

زاز	zaaz 'abuse'	زاز
-----	--------------	-----

7. vaaco symbolizes four different sounds: At the beginning of a word, it symbolizes /v/. At the end of a word, it symbolizes /uu/, /oo/, or /au/. Elsewhere, vaaco may symbolize /v/, /uu/, /oo/, or /au/.

7.1. vaaco has the final shape vaaco. Examples within words, symbolizing /v/:

سوا	savaa '1 ¹ /4'	سوا
بیوی	biivii 'wife'	بیوی
ہوا	havaa 'weather'	ہوا
میںوا	meevaa 'dried fruit'	میںوا

7.2. Examples of final vaaco within words, symbolizing /uu/:

سوٹ	suuT 'suit'	سوٹ
بوٹ	buuT 'boot'	بوٹ
خوب	xuub 'well'	خوب
مایوس	maayuus 'hopeless'	مایوس

7.3. Examples of final vaaco within words, symbolizing /oo/:

بونا	boonaa 'to sow'	بونا
لوگ	loog 'people'	لوگ
ہونگے	hōōgee 'they will be'	ہونگے

7.4. Examples of final vaaco within words, symbolizing /au/:

کون	kaun 'who?'	کون
فوج	fauj 'army'	فوج
موقع	mauqaa 'opportunity'	موقع

7.5. Examples of final vaaco at the end of words, symbolizing /uu/:

آلو	aaluu 'potato'	آلو
بابو	baabuu 'clerk'	بابو
سادھو	saadhau 'Hindu ascetic'	سادھو
بھالو	bhaaluu 'bear'	بھالو

7.6. Examples of final vaaco at the end of words, symbolizing /oo/:

جو	joo 'who'	جو
تو	too 'then'	تو
لو	loo 'take!'	لو

7.7. Examples of final vaaco at the end of words, symbolizing /au/:

جو	jau 'barley'	جو
نو	nau 'nine'	نو
سو	sau '100'	سو
بو	bau (or buu) 'a smell'	بو

7.8. vaaco has the independent shape و. Examples at the beginning of words, symbolizing /v/:

وقت	vaqt 'time'	وقت
وضع	vazaa 'condition'	وضع
والد	vaalid 'father'	والد
وزیر	vaziir 'minister of state'	وزیر

7.9. Examples of independent vaaco within words, symbolizing /v/:

چاول	caaval 'rice'	چاول
آواز	aavaaz 'voice'	آواز
ایوان	aivaan 'hall'	ایوان
دوا	davaa 'medicine'	دوا

7.10. Examples of independent vaao within words, symbolizing /uu/:

اونجا	officaa 'high'	اونجا
اوپر	uupar 'above'	اوپر
دور	duur 'far'	دور
روح	ruuh 'spirit'	روح

7.11. Examples of independent vaao within words, symbolizing /oo/:

اورھنا	oorhnaa 'to put on'	اورھنا
روٹی	rooTii 'bread'	روٹی
روز	rooz 'day'	روز
دوست	doost 'friend'	دوست

7.12. Examples of independent vaao within words, symbolizing /au/:

اور	aur 'and'	اور
اولاد	aulaad 'children'	اولاد
ڈونگا	Dāṭigaa 'canoe'	ڈونگا
دولت	daulat 'wealth'	دولت

7.13. Examples of independent vaao at the end of words, symbolizing /uu/:

بازو	baazuu 'arm'	بازو
اردو	urduu 'Urdu'	اردو
جھاڑو	jhaaRuu 'a broom'	جھاڑو
رو برو	ruubaruu 'face to face'	رو برو

7.14. Examples of independent vaao at the end of words, symbolizing /oo/:

دو	doo 'give!'	دو
تھرو	Thehroo 'wait!'	تھرو
ٹوڑو	tooRoo 'break!'	ٹوڑو
لڑو	laRoo 'fight!'	لڑو

8. Connectors

Connectors comprise all remaining letters; they are connected to following letters, and to preceding letters which are themselves connectors. They may be arranged into several groups according to their basic forms.

Letters of the first group are characterized by an upward stroke, with various marks above or below. The medial shapes are as follows:

⤵ <u>bee</u>	⤵ <u>tee</u>	⤵ <u>see</u>	⤵ <u>nuun</u>	⤵ <u>yee</u>
⤵ <u>pee</u>	⤵ <u>Tee</u>			

In their independent and final shapes, only nuun and yee vary from the basic form.

8.1. bee has a single dot below the basic form.

8.1.1. It has the initial shape ⤵. Examples at the beginning of words:

بس	bas 'enough'	بس باپ بیس بدھ
باپ	baap 'father'	
بیس	biis '20'	
بدھ	budh 'Wednesday'	

8.1.2. Examples of initial bee within words:

چو بیس	caubiis '24'	چو بیس آباد زبان صابون
آباد	aabaad 'situated'	
زبان	zabaan 'tongue'	
صابون	saabuun 'soap'	

8.1.3. bee has the medial shape ⤵.

سبز	sabz 'green'	سبز خبر اسباب ڈبل
خبر	xabar 'news'	
اسباب	asbaab 'luggage'	
ڈبل	Dabal 'double'	

8.1.4. bee has the final shape ب.

سب	sab 'all'	سب جیب تب کب
جیب	jeeb 'pocket'	
تب	tab 'then'	
کب	kab 'when'	

8.1.5. bee has the independent shape ب.

اب	ab 'now'	اب
خوب	xuub 'well'	خوب
شراب	šaraab 'liquor'	شراب
آب	aab 'water'	آب

8.2. pee has three dots arranged in a triangle below the basic form.

8.2.1. It has the initial shape پ. Examples at the beginning of words:

پ	par 'on'	پ
پاس	paas 'near'	پاس
پیٹ	peeṭ 'stomach'	پیٹ
پیر	piir 'Monday'	پیر

8.2.2. Examples of initial pee within words:

اپنا	apnaa 'one's own'	اپنا
آپکو	aap-koo 'to you'	آپکو
ٹوپی	Toopii 'hat'	ٹوپی
واپس	vaapas 'back'	واپس

8.2.3. pee has the medial shape پ.

تپنا	tapnaa 'to warm oneself'	تپنا
سپاہی	sipaahii 'soldier'	سپاہی
چپل	cappal 'andal'	چپل
چپاتی	capaṭii 'wheatcake'	چپاتی

8.2.4. pee has the final shape پ.

سانپ	sāṅp 'snake'	سانپ
کپ	kap 'cup'	کپ
چپ	cup 'silent'	چپ
جیپ	jiip 'jeep'	جیپ

8.2.5. pee has the independent shape پ.

آپ	aap 'you'	آپ
باپ	baap 'father'	باپ
ٹوپ	toop 'cannon'	ٹوپ
دھوپ	dhump 'sunshine'	دھوپ

8.3. tee has two dots above the basic form. This is the commonest symbol for the sound /t/.

8.3.1. It has the initial shape ت. Examples at the beginning of words:

تب	tab 'then'	تب
تنگ	tang 'tight'	تنگ
تک	tak 'until'	تک
تو	too 'then'	تو

8.3.2. Examples of initial tee within words:

جوتا	juttaa 'shoe'	جوتا
کرتا	kartaa 'doing'	کرتا
پڑتا	paRtaa 'falling'	پڑتا
آتا	aataa 'coming'	آتا

8.3.3. tee has the medial shape آ.

پتا	pataa 'address'	پتا
چیتا	ciitaa 'cheetah'	چیتا
کتاب	kitaab 'book'	کتاب
راست	raastaa 'road'	راستہ

8.3.4. tee has the final shape ت.

مت	mat 'don't'	مت
کھیت	kheet 'field'	کھیت
دوست	doost 'friend'	دوست
لعنت	laanat 'curse'	لعنت

8.3.5. tee has the independent shape ت.

باء	baat 'thing'	بات
عورت	aurat 'woman'	عورت
عادت	aadat 'habit'	عادت
رات	raat 'night'	رات

8.4. Tee has a small tooe above the basic form.

8.4.1. It has the initial shape ٹ. Examples at the beginning of words:

ٹاگ Tāg 'leg'

ٹراام Traam 'streetcar'

ٹیکا Tiikaa 'inoculation'

ٹوپی Toopii 'hat'

ٹاگ
ٹراام
ٹیکا
ٹوپي

8.4.2. Examples of initial Tee within words:

ھوٹل hooTal 'hotel'

روٹی rooTii 'bread'

چھوٹا chooTaa 'small'

پارٹی paarTii 'team, party'

ھوٹل
روٹی
چھوٹا
پارٹی

8.4.3. Tee has the medial shape ٹ.

بٹنا baTnaa 'to be divided'

بیٹا beeTaa 'son'

بیٹی beeTii 'daughter'

اسٹیشن isTeeṣan 'station'

بٹنا
بیٹا
بیٹی
اسٹیشن

8.4.4. Tee has the final shape ٹ.

پیٹ peeT 'stomach'

ہونٹ hōṣṬ 'lip'

منٹ mināT 'minute'

اونٹ ūṭT 'camel'

پیٹ
ہونٹ
منٹ
اونٹ

8.4.5. Tee has the independent shape ٹ.

سوٹ suuT 'suit'

بوٹ buuT 'boot'

کوٹ kooT 'coat'

جوٹ cooT 'injury'

سوٹ
بوٹ
کوٹ
جوٹ

8.5. see has three dots above the basic form. As a symbol for /s/, it is less common than siin (Sec. 10.1.)

8.5.1. see has the initial shape س. Examples at the beginning of words:

سبوت	sabuut	'proof'	ثبوت
ساقيل	saqil	'indigestible'	ثقیل
ساب	savaab	'blessing'	ثواب
ساروات	sarvat	'wealth; a woman's name'	ثروت

8.5.2. Examples of initial see within words:

اثر	asar	'effect'	اثر
حادثة	haadisah	'event'	حادثة
ورثه	varsa	'heritage'	ورثه

8.5.3. see has the medial shape س.

مثال	misaal	'example'	مثال
مثلاً	maslan	'for example'	مثلاً
نثر	nasar	'literary composition'	نثر
كثرة	kasrat	'abundance'	كثرة

8.5.4. see has the final shape ث.

بهت	behes	'argument'	بخت
خبث	xabiis	'evil spirit'	خبث
حديث	hadiis	'saying of the Prophet'	حديث
ثانيه	taaniis	'feminine gender'	ثانيه

8.5.5. see has the independent shape ث.

حرق	hars	'cultivation'	حرق
وارث	vaaris	'heir'	وارث
حدث	hadus	'event'	حدث

8.6. nuun has a single dot above the basic form. It symbolizes not only the consonant /n/, but also nasalization.

8.6.1. nuun has the initial shape ن. At the beginning of words it symbolizes only the consonant /n/.

نام	naam 'name'	نام
نو	nau 'nine'	نو
نمک	namak 'salt'	نمک
نشہ	naśaa 'intoxication'	نشہ

8.6.2. Examples of initial nuun within words, symbolizing /n/:

پانی	paanii 'water'	پانی
آنا	aanaa 'to come'	آنا
بونا	boonaa 'to sow'	بونا
زنجیر	zanjiir 'chain'	زنجیر

8.6.3. Examples of initial nuun within words, symbolizing nasalization:

سانپ	sāṅp 'snake'	سانپ
ہونٹ	hōṭṭ 'lip'	ہونٹ
اونٹ	ūṭṭ 'camel'	اونٹ
چاند	chāṇd 'moon'	چاند

8.6.4. nuun has the medial shape ن. Examples symbolizing /n/:

لینا	leenaa 'to take'	لینا
سینا	siinaa 'to sew'	سینا
پنیر	paniir 'cheese'	پنیر
جناب	janaab 'sir'	جناب

8.6.5. Examples of medial nuun symbolizing nasalization:

سینگ	sīṅg 'horn'	سینگ
ہنسنا	hāṣnaa 'to laugh'	ہنسنا
منہ	mūh 'mouth'	منہ
ملینگے	milēṅgē 'we will meet'	ملینگے

8.6.6. nuun has the final shape ن.

تین	tiin 'three'	تین
بہن	behen 'sister'	بہن
زمین	zamiin 'land'	زمین
لیکن	leekin 'but'	لیکن

8.6.7. nuun has the independent shape ن .

خون	xuun 'blood'	تون
ران	raan 'thigh'	ران
دن	din 'day'	دن
دوکان	dunkaan, dukaan 'shop'	دوکان

8.6.8. Nasalisation of vowels at the end of a word is symbolized by a special form of nuun which lacks the dot above. This is called nuun guunah. It has the final shape ں .

نہیں	nahīī 'not'	نہیں
میں	mīī 'I' or mīī 'in'	میں
بائیں	baaīī 'left'	بائیں
ہیں	hīī 'are'	ہیں

8.6.9. nuun guunah has the independent shape ں .

کہاں	kahīī 'where'	کہاں
ماں	mīī 'mother'	ماں
ہوں	hūū 'am'	ہوں
میاں	miyīī 'sir'	میاں

8.7. yee has two dots below the basic form (when initial or medial). At the beginning of a word, yee symbolizes /y/. At the end of a word, it symbolizes /ii/, /ee/, or /ai/. Elsewhere it may symbolize /y/, /ii/, /ee/, or /ai/.

8.7.1. yee has the initial shape ی . Examples at the beginning of words, symbolizing /y/:

یا	yaa 'or'	یا
یہاں	yahīī 'right here'	یہاں
یاد	yaad 'memory'	یاد
یار	yaar 'friend'	یار

8.7.2. Examples of initial yee within words, symbolizing /y/:

آیا	aayaa 'came'	آیا
شاید	ṣaayad 'perhaps'	شاید
زیادہ	zyaadaa 'more'	زیادہ
ریاست	riyaasat 'state'	ریاست

8.7.3. Examples of initial yee within words, symbolizing /i:/

ایمان	imaan 'conscience'	ایمان
وزیر	vaziir 'minister of state'	وزیر
شریف	Šariif 'honorable'	شریف
دیوار	diivaar 'wall'	دیوار

8.7.4. Examples of initial yee within words, symbolizing /ee/:

ایک	eeek 'one'	ایک
دیر	deer 'delay'	دیر
ایڑی	eeRii 'heel'	ایڑی
دینا	deenaa 'to give'	دینا

8.7.5. Examples of initial yee within words, symbolizing /ai/:

ایسے	aisee 'thus'	ایسے
ویسا	vaisaa 'of such kind'	ویسا
ایوان	aivaan 'hall'	ایوان
زین	zain 'ornament'	زین

8.7.6. yee has the medial shape ی. Examples symbolizing /y/:

میاں	miyāā 'sir'	میاں
نیا	nayaa 'new'	نیا
کیا	kyaa 'what?'	کیا
کیوں	kyūū 'why?'	کیوں

8.7.7. Examples of medial yee symbolizing /i:/

تین	tiin 'three'	تین
میل	miil 'mile'	میل
چیز	ciiz 'thing'	چیز
پیر	piir 'Monday'	پیر

8.7.8. Examples of medial yee symbolizing /ee/:

جیب	jeeb 'pocket'	جیب
بیٹا	beeTaa 'son'	بیٹا
میرا	meeras 'my'	میرا
لینا	leenaa 'to take'	لینا

8.7.9. Examples of medial yee symbolizing /ai/:

سير	sair 'a walk'	سير
خير	xair 'well'	خير
كيسا	kaisaa 'what kind'	كيسا
پيسا	paissaa 'money'	پيسا

In a very few cases, medial yee symbolizes /aa/. E.g.:

• طليحدا alaahidaa (or alhaidaa) 'separate'

8.7.10. yee has the final shape ي. As shown here, it is called chooTii yee 'small yee' and symbolizes only /ii/.

بھی	bhii 'also'	بھی
کی	kii 'of'	کی
جی	jii 'sir'	جی
ہی	hii 'just'	ہی

8.7.11. chooTii yee, representing /ii/, has the independent shape ی.

بیوی	biivii 'wife'	بیوی
میری	meerii 'my'	میری
شادی	šaadii 'marriage'	شادی
ٹھوڈی	ThooDii 'chin'	ٹھوڈی

8.7.12. In a few words, final or independent chooTii yee symbolizes /aa/. In these cases, alif is sometimes written above the yee.

عیسای	iisaa 'Jesus'	عیسای
معنی	maanaa 'meaning'	معنی
دعوی	daavaa 'lawsuit'	دعوی
موسی	muusaa 'Moses'	موسی

8.7.13. There is also a final shape ع, called baRii yee 'big yee'. This symbolizes /ee/ or /ai/. Examples of final baRii yee symbolizing /ee/:

کے	kee 'of'	کے
سے	see 'from'	سے
آنے	aahee 'armas'	آنے
بچے	baccee 'children'	بچے

24.

8.7.14. Examples of final baRii yee symbolizing /ai/:

hai 'is'

jai 'hail!' 

qai 'vomiting' 

8.7.15. baRii yee has the independent shape . Examples symbolizing /ee/:

meeree 'my' 

dee 'he may give' 

paRee 'they fell' 

cehree 'faces' 

8.7.16. Example of independent baRii yee, symbolizing /ai/:

ai (an exclamation) 

9. Four letters share a basic form appearing medially as , handwritten . In their medial shapes, they are as follows:

 jiim

 hee

 cee

 xee

In handwritten style, preceding connectors join these letters from the top, not from the side (see examples of medial and final shapes).

9.1. jiim has a dot below the basic form.

9.1.1. It has the initial shape . Examples at the beginning of words:

jab 'when' 

jeeb 'pocket' 

jii 'sir' 

joo 'who' 

9.1.2. Examples of initial jiim within words:

darjaa 'class' 

ajii 'look here' 

vajah 'reason' 

khoojnas 'to search' 

9.1.3. jiim has the medial shape ج, handwritten ج.

bajnaa 'to strike' جنا
bhesjnaa 'to send' بھجنا
bhaanjii 'sister's daughter' بھانجی
bijlii 'electricity' بجلی

9.1.4. jiim has the final shape ج, handwritten ج.

kaalej 'college' کالج
satlaj 'Sutlej River' ستلج
biij 'seed' بیج
ranj 'sorrow' رنج

9.1.5. jiim has the independent shape ج.

aa'j 'today' آج
aa'j 'army' فوج
ilaa'j 'cure' علاج
suura'j 'sun' سورج

9.2. cee has three dots below the basic form.

9.2.1. It has the initial shape چ. Examples at the beginning of words:

ca'ad 'moon' چاند
ca'ae 'tea' چائے
cek 'check' چک
ciiz 'thing' چیز

9.2.2. Examples of initial cee within words:

acaar 'pickle' اچار
caacaa 'father's brother' چاچا
acaanak 'suddenly' اچانک
ackan 'a type of coat' اچکن

9.2.3. cee has the medial shape چ, handwritten چ.

bacnaa 'to avoid' بچنا
pacpan '55' پچپن
pacaas '50' پچاس
palkovik '5th' پانچواں

9.2.4. cee has the final shape ج, handwritten ج.

ج	sac 'truth'	ج
پانچ	pañc 'five'	پانچ
چ	cammac 'spoon'	چ
کانچ	kāñc 'glass'	کانچ

9.2.5. cee has the independent shape ج.

ناچ	naac 'dance'	ناچ
خرچ	xarc 'expense'	خرچ
سوچ	sooc 'thought'	سوچ
میرچ	mirc 'chili'	میرچ

9.3. hee is simply the basic form of this series, without dots. As a symbol for /h/, it is less common than the other letter named hee, namely ه (Sec. 18.)

9.3.1. It has the initial shape ح. Examples at the beginning of words:

حکم	hulm 'command'	حکم
حاجی	haajii 'pilgrim to Mecca'	حاجی
حاصل	haasil 'result'	حاصل
حال	haal 'condition'	حال

9.3.2. Examples of initial hee within words:

رحیم	rahiim 'merciful'	رحیم
صاحب	saaheb 'master'	صاحب
صراحی	suraahee 'goblet'	صراحی

9.3.3. hee has the medial shape ح, handwritten ح.

محل	mehel 'palace'	محل
منحصر	munhasar 'dependent'	منحصر
محرم	moharram 'a Muslim month'	محرم
محمول	mehsuul 'tax'	محمول

9.3.4. hee has the final shape ح, handwritten ح.

ح masalah 'seasoning'

ح subah 'morning'

ح masiih 'Messiah'

ح fateh 'victory'

مساله
صبح
مسيح
فتح

9.3.5. hee has the independent shape ح.

ح ruuh 'spirit'

ح nuuh 'Noah'

ح madah 'praise'

ح mallaah 'sailor'

روح
نوح
مدح
ملاح

9.4. xee has a dot above the basic form.

9.4.1. It has the initial shape خ. Examples at the beginning of words:

خ xaas 'special'

خ xyaal 'thought'

خ xuub 'well'

خ xuun 'blood'

خاص
خیال
خوب
خون

9.4.2. Examples of initial xee within words:

خ اخبار axbaar 'newspaper'

خ ناخن naaxun 'fingernail'

خ آخر aaxiir 'end'

خ زخم zaxn 'wound'

اخبار
ناخن
آخر
زخم

9.4.3. xee has the medial shape خ, handwritten خ.

خ بخار buxar 'fever'

خ Taxnaa 'ankle'

خ saxt 'hard'

خ maxmal 'velvet'

بخار
تخنه
سخت
مخمل

9.4.4. xee has the final shape خ, handwritten خ.

خ taariix 'date'

خ meex 'nail'

خ keex 'sheikh'

خ yax 'frozen'

تاریخ
مینخ
شیخ
یخ

9.4.5. see has the independent shape خ.

شاخ	šaax 'branch'
شوخ	šoox 'insolent'
رخ	ruX 'direction'
سلاخ	salaax 'iron bar'

شاخ
شوخ
رخ
سلاخ

10. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as س. Their medial shapes are as follows:

siin

Siin

In handwriting, the three points are often replaced by a single slightly curved line (see examples below).

10.1. siin consists of the basic form without dots. It is the commonest symbol for the sound /s/.

10.1.1. It has the initial shape س. Examples at the beginning of words:

سال	saal 'year'
سوٹ	suuT 'suit'
سب	sab 'all'
سچ	sac 'truth'

سال
سوٹ
سب
سچ

10.1.2. Examples of initial siin within words:

اسلام	islaam 'Islam'
رستی	ra=si 'rope'
راستہ	raastaa 'road'
دوست	doost 'friend'

اسلام
رستی
راستہ
دوست

10.1.3. siin has the medial shape س.

ایسا	aissaa 'such'
کسی	kisii 'any'
پیسہ	paissaa 'money'
انسان	insaaan 'human being'

ایسا
کسی
پیسہ
انسان

10.1.4. siin has the final shape س.

سانس	saiss 'breath'
سائیس	saais 'groom for horses'
بس	bas 'enough'
کس	kis 'what'

سانس
سائیس
بس
کس

10.1.5. siin has the independent shape س.

پاس paas 'near'
کوس koos '2 miles'
اداس udaas 'sad'
دس das 'ten'

پاس
کوس
اداس
دس

10.2. Siin has three dots above the basic form.

10.2.1. Its initial shape is ش. Examples at the beginning of words:

شام šaam 'evening'
شراب šaraab 'liquor'
شادی šaadii 'wedding'
شب šab 'night'

شام
شراب
شادی
شب

10.2.2. Examples of initial Siin within words:

گوشت goošt 'meat'
کوشش koošiš 'effort'
روشن roošan 'light'
خوشی xušii 'happiness'

گوشت
کوشش
روشن
خوشی

10.2.3. Siin has the medial shape ش.

نشه našaa 'intoxication'
تشریف tašriif 'honor'
شیشه šiišaa 'glass'
مشرق mašriq 'east'

نشه
تشریف
شیشه
مشرق

10.2.4. Siin has the final shape ش.

تفتیش taftiış 'inquiry'
کوشش koošiš 'effort'
مالش maalīš 'rubbing'
دیش deeš 'country'

تفتیش
کوشش
مالش
دیش

10.2.5. Siin has the independent shape ش.

بارش baariš 'rain'
تلاش talaaš 'search'
خوش xuš 'happy'
فرش farš 'floor'

بارش
تلاش
خوش
فرش

11. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as ص. In their medial shapes, these are:

ص svaad

ض svaad

11.1. svaad consists of the basic form without dots. As a symbol for /s/, it is less common than siin.

11.1.1. svaad has the initial shape ص. Examples at the beginning of words:

صاحب saahab 'master'

صاحب

صاف saaf 'clean'

صاف

صبح subah 'morning'

صبح

صرف sirf 'only'

صرف

11.1.2. Examples of initial svaad within words:

حاصل haasil 'result'

حاصل

فاصله faaslaa 'space'

فاصله

اصول usuul 'principle'

اصول

اصلی aslii 'real'

اصلی

11.1.3. svaad has the medial shape ص.

مصر mir 'Egypt'

مصر

محمول mehsuul 'tax'

محمول

مصلح masaalah 'seasoning'

مصلح

مصرف masruuf 'busy'

مصرف

11.1.4. svaad has the final shape ص.

شخص šaxs 'person'

شخص

نقص nuqs 'defect'

نقص

ناقص naaqs 'defective'

ناقص

11.1.5. svaad has the independent shape ص.

خاص xaas 'special'

خاص

مخصوص maxsuus 'particular'

مخصوص

11.2. zvaad has one dot above the basic form. As a symbol for /z/, it is less common than zee (Sec. 6.3.)

11.2.1. zvaad has the initial shape ز. Examples at the beginning of words:

ضرور	zaruur 'certainly'	ضرور
ضدی	ziddii 'naughty'	ضدی
ضلع	zila 'administrative district'	ضلع
ضمانت	zamaanat 'surety'	ضمانت

11.2.2. Examples of initial zvaad within words:

حاضر	haazir 'present'	حاضر
وضع	vaaa 'condition'	وضع
حاضری	haazrii 'attendance'	حاضری

11.2.3. zvaad has the medial shape ز.

ہینہ	haizaa 'cholera'	ہینہ
حضور	hazuur 'sir'	حضور
قضا	qazaa 'death'	قضا
ہضم	hazm 'digestion'	ہضم

11.2.4. zvaad has the final shape ز.

رفض	rifz, rifs 'rumor'	رفض
مریض	mariiz 'a patient'	مریض
قابض	qaabiz 'possessing'	قابض
فرائض	faraaez 'duties'	فرائض

11.2.5. zvaad has the independent shape ز.

فرض	fars 'duty'	فرض
عرض	arz 'request'	عرض
قرض	qarz 'loan'	قرض
غرض	yaraz 'purpose'	غرض

12. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as ز. In their medial shapes, these are:

ز tooe

ز zoee

12.1. tooe consists of the basic form without dots. As a symbol for /t/, it is less common than tee (Sec. 8.3.)

12.1.1. tooe has the initial shape ط. Examples at the beginning of words:

طبله	tablaa 'drum'	طبله
طرح	tarah 'manner'	طرح
طرف	taraf 'direction'	طرف
طوفان	tuufaan 'storm'	طوفان

12.1.2. Examples of initial tooe within words:

اطلاع	itlaa 'information'	اطلاع
طوطا	tootaa 'parrot'	طوطا

12.1.3. tooe has the medial shape ط.

سلطان	sultaan 'sultan'	سلطان
سلطنت	sultanat 'sultanate'	سلطنت
شطرنج	šatranj 'chess'	شطرنج
مطلب	matlab 'meaning'	مطلب

12.1.4. tooe has the final shape ه.

خط	xat 'letter'	خط
غلط	yalat 'wrong'	غلط
اوسط	ausat 'average'	اوسط
قحط	qehet 'famine'	قحط

12.1.5. tooe has the independent shape ط.

شرط	šart 'condition'	شرط
خطوط	xutuut 'correspondence'	خطوط
مضبوط	mazbuut 'strong'	مضبوط
صراط	saraat 'direct road'	صراط

12.2. zoee has one dot above the basic form. As a symbol for /z/, it is less common than zee (Sec. 6.3.)

12.2.1. zoee has the initial shape ظ. Examples at the beginning of words:

ظاهر	zaaher 'apparent'	ظاهر
ظالم	zaalim 'cruel'	ظالم
ظلم	zulm 'oppression'	ظلم
ظهر	zuhar 'midday'	ظهر

12.2.2. Examples of initial zooee within words:

اظہر	azhar 'clear'	اظهر
وظیفہ	vaziifah 'pension'	وظیفہ
ناظر	naazir 'inspector'	ناظر
غلاظہ	yalaazat 'dirt'	غلاظت

12.2.3. zooee has the medial shape ظ.

انتظار	intazaar 'expectation'	انتظار
اعظم	aazam 'greatest'	اعظم
منظور	manzuur 'agreed'	منظور
نظر	nazar 'sight'	نظر

12.2.4. zooee has the final shape ظ.

محافظ	muhaafiz 'protector'	محافظ
لفظ	lafz, lavz 'word'	لفظ
وعظ	vaaz 'advice'	وعظ
غلیظ	yaliiz 'dirty'	غلیظ

12.2.5. zooee has the independent shape ظ.

لحاظ	lehaaz 'consideration'	لحاظ
الفاظ	alfaaz 'words'	الفاظ

محفوظ	mehfuuz 'protected'	محفوظ
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13. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as ا, handwritten آ. In their medial shapes, these are:

ـ ain

ـ yain

13.1. ain consists of the basic form without dots. In very careful speech, it may be pronounced as a glottal stop /ʔ/. Normally, however, it is not pronounced at the beginning of words; in other positions it represents a long vowel, usually /aa/.

13.1.1. Its initial shape is ا. Examples at the beginning of words:

مرء	aurat 'woman'	مرء
عام	aam 'general'	عام
عمارت	imaarat 'building'	عمارت
علم	ilm 'knowledge'	علم

13.1.2. Examples of initial ain within words:

اعظم	aazam 'greatest'	اعظم
دعوى	daavaa 'lawsuit'	دعوى
وعظ	vaaz 'advice'	وعظ
جماعت	jamaat 'crowd'	جماعت

13.1.3. ain has the medial shape ا, handwritten ا.

لعنت	laanat 'curse'	لعنت
دفعه	dafaa 'time, occasion'	دفعه
معاف	maaf 'pardon'	معاف

13.1.4. ain has the final shape ع.

جمع	jamaa 'plus'	جمع
برقع	burqaa 'a woman's garment'	برقع
ضلع	zilaa 'administrative district'	ضلع
ضایع	zaayaa 'lost'	ضایع

13.1.5. ain has the independent shape ع.

شروع	šuruu 'beginning'	شروع
شرع	šaraa 'writing of the Prophet'	شرع
مصرع	misraa 'line of verse'	مصرع

13.2. yain has one dot over the basic form.

13.2.1. Its initial shape is ی. Examples at the beginning of words:

غریب	yariib 'poor'	غریب
غسل	yusal 'bath'	غسل
غور	yoor 'attention'	غور
غلہ	yallaa 'grain'	غلہ

13.2.2. Examples of initial yain within words:

باغبانی	baaybaanii 'gardening'	باغبانی
کاغذ	kaayaz 'paper'	کاغذ
دغا	dayaa 'deceit'	دغا
وغیرہ	vayairah 'etc.'	وغیرہ

13.2.3. yain has the medial shape ڤ, handwritten ڤ.

بلم	balyam 'phlegm'
بغير	bayair 'without'
مشغول	mašyūul 'busy'
مغز	mays 'brain'

بلم
بغير
مشغول
مغز

13.2.4. yain has the final shape ڤ.

بالغ	baaliy 'mature'
------	-----------------

بالغ

مغ	mey 'fog'
تغ	tay 'sword'

مغ
تغ

13.2.5. yain has the independent shape ڤ.

باغ	baay 'orchard'
داغ	daay 'spot'
مرغ	mury 'chicken'
دروغ	darooy 'lie'

باغ
داغ
مرغ
دروغ

14. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as ڤ. In their medial shapes, these are:

ڤ fee

ڤ qaaf

14.1. fee has one dot above the basic form.

14.1.1. Its initial shape is ڤ. Examples at the beginning of words are:

ڤوج	fauj 'army'	ڤوج
ڤرصت	fursat 'leisure'	ڤرصت
ڤرمانا	farmaanaa 'to order'	ڤرمانا
ڤاسله	faaslaa 'distance'	ڤاسله

14.1.2. Examples of initial fee within words are:

ڤاڤي	kaafii 'enough'
------	-----------------

ڤاڤي

ڤفسوس	afsoos 'sorrow'
-------	-----------------

ڤفسوس

ڤفاه	dafaa 'time, occasion'
------	------------------------

ڤفاه

14.1.3. fee has the medial shape ف .

مفيد	mufiid 'beneficial'
شفيق	šafiiq 'merciful'
لفافه	lifaafaa 'envelope'
سفارش	sifaariš 'recommendation'

مفيد
شفيق
لفافه
سفارش

14.1.4. fee has the final shape ف .

لطف	lutf 'pleasure'
تكليف	takliif 'trouble'
شريف	šariif 'honorable'
مختلف	muxtalif 'different'

لطف
تكليف
شريف
مختلف

14.1.5. fee has the independent shape ف .

معاف	maaf 'pardon'
اف	uf (an exclamation)
طرف	taraf 'direction'
مصرف	masruuf 'busy'

معاف
اف
طرف
مصرف

14.2. qaaf has two dots above the basic form.

14.2.1. Its initial shape is ق . Examples at the beginning of a word are:

قلم	qalam 'pen'
قريب	qariib 'near'
قوم	qaum 'race of people'
قيمت	qiimat 'price'

قلم
قريب
قوم
قيمت

14.2.2. Examples of initial qaaf within words:

وقت	vaqt 'time'
اقبال	iqbaal (a man's name)
موقع	mauqaa 'opportunity'
برقع	burqaa 'a woman's garment'

وقت
اقبال
موقع
برقع

14.2.3. qaaf has the medial shape ق .

عقل	aqal 'wisdom'
فقير	faqiir 'beggar'
يقين	yaqiin 'certainty'
نقصان	nuqsaan 'loss'

عقل
فقير
يقين
نقصان

14.2.4. gaaf has the final shape ق .

رفیق	rafiq 'friend'
تعلق	taaluq 'connection'
سبق	sabaq 'lesson'
عاشق	aaṣiq 'lover'

رفیق

سبق

عاشق

تعلق

14.2.5. gaaf has the independent shape ق .

مذاق	mazaq 'joke'
فرق	farq 'difference'
ورق	varq 'page'
شوق	ṣauq 'pleasure'

مذاق

فرق

ورق

شوق

15. Two letters share a basic form appearing medially as ل , with one or two oblique strokes added above. In their medial shapes, these are:

ک kaafگ gaaf

15.1. kaaf has a single oblique stroke above the basic form.

15.1.1. Its initial shape is ک . Examples at the beginning of words:

کس	kis 'what'
کوٹ	kooT 'coat'
کے	kee 'of'
کب	kab 'when?'

کس
کوٹ
کے
کب

15.1.2. Examples of initial kaaf within words:

نوک	naukar 'servant'
ڈاکٹر	DaakTar 'doctor'
پاکستان	paakistaan 'Pakistan'
روکنا	rooknaa 'to stop'

نوک
ڈاکٹر
پاکستان
روکنا

15.1.3. kaaf has the medial shape ک .

حکم	hulm 'command'
بکس	baks 'box'
آپکو	aap-koo 'to you'
لیکن	leekin 'but'

حکم
بکس
آپکو
لیکن

15.1.4. kaaf has the final shape ک.

ایک	EEK 'one'	ایک
تک	tak 'until'	تک
ملک	mulk 'country'	ملک
ٹھیک	Thiik 'correct'	ٹھیک

15.1.5. kaaf has the independent shape ک.

ناک	naak 'nose'	ناک
ڈاک	Daak 'mail'	ڈاک
بھوک	bhuuk 'hunger'	بھوک
سڑک	saRak 'street'	سڑک

15.2. gaaf has two oblique strokes above the basic form.

15.2.1. Its initial shape is گ. Examples at the beginning of a word are:

گز	gaz 'yard (length)'	گزر
گوشت	goošt 'meat'	گوشت
گولی	goolii 'bullet'	گولی
گدا	gandaa 'dirty'	گندا

15.2.2. Examples of initial gaaf within words are:

اگر	agar 'if'	اگر
رگڑنا	ragaRnaa 'to rub hard'	رگڑنا
ہرگز	hargiz 'ever'	ہرگز
بھاگنا	bhaagnaa 'to run'	بھاگنا

15.2.3. gaaf has the medial shape گ.

مگر	magar 'crocodile'	مگر
جگہ	jagah 'place'	جگہ
لگنا	lagnaa 'to begin'	لگنا
جھگڑا	jhagRaa 'quarrel'	جھگڑا

15.2.4. gaaf has the final shape گ.

رنگ	rang 'color'	رنگ
تنگ	tang 'tight'	تنگ
ٹانگ	TaaG 'leg'	ٹانگ
لٹنگ	lEüg 'cloves'	لٹنگ

15.2.5. gaaf has the independent shape گ .

لوگ	loog 'people'
آگ	aag 'fire'
ساک	saag 'greens'
راگ	raag 'melody'

لوگ
آگ
ساک
راگ

16. laam is characteristically a vertical stroke. It differs from alif chiefly by connecting to a following letter.

16.1. It has the initial shape ل . Examples at the beginning of words:

لوگ	loog 'people'
لذیذ	laziiz 'delicious'
لینا	leenaa 'to take'
لیکن	leekin 'but'

لوگ
لذیذ
لینا
لیکن

16.2. Examples of initial laam within words:

آلو	aaluu 'potato'
گولی	goolii 'bullet'
گالی	gaalii 'abuse'
غالباً	yaaliban 'probably'

آلو
گولی
گالی
غالباً

16.3. laam has the medial shape ل .

جلدی	jaldii 'quickly'
فی الفور	filfaur 'immediately'
غلطی	yaltii 'mistake'
جلسہ	jalsaa 'assembly'

جلدی
فی الفور
غلطی
جلسہ

16.4. laam has the final shape ل .

میل	miil 'mile'
محل	mehel 'palace'
تیل	teel 'oil'
میل	mil 'dirt'

میل
محل
تیل
میل

16.5. laam has the independent shape ل .

گال	gaal 'cheek'
لال	laal 'red'
بال	baal 'hair'
دل	dil 'heart'

گال
لال
بال
دل

17. miim is characteristically a small circle in the line of writing.

17.1. It has the initial shape •. Examples at the beginning of words:

میں	mīī 'I'	میں
مان	māī 'mother'	مان
میل	mīl 'mile'	میل
مت	mat 'don't'	مت

17.2. Examples of initial miim within words:

آدمی	aadmī 'man'	آدمی
امیر	amiir 'rich'	امیر
آمدنی	aamdani 'income'	آمدنی
رمضان	ramzaan 'a Muslim month'	رمضان

17.3. miim has the medial shape ۞.

بیمار	biimaar 'sick'	بیمار
کمر	kamar 'waist'	کمر
نمک	namak 'salt'	نمک
کمرہ	kamraa 'room'	کمرہ

17.4. miim has the final shape ۞.

کم	kam 'less'	کم
ہم	ham 'we'	ہم
علم	ilm 'learning'	علم
بےگم	beegam 'lady'	بےگم

17.5. miim has the independent shape ۞.

کام	kaam 'work'	کام
قوم	qaum 'race of people'	قوم
آم	aam 'mango'	آم
سلام	salaam 'greetings'	سلام

18. Of the two letters named hee, the one having the independent form • is commoner than the one written ح (Sec. 9.3); both symbolize the sound /h/. hee occurs in two main varieties, known as doocaṣmīi hee 'two-eyed hee' and gool hee 'round hee'.

18.1. Only doocaṣmii hee occurs as initial; it has the printed shape ه and the handwritten shape ہ. Examples at the beginning of words:

هم	ham 'we'	ہم
هي	hii 'just'	ہی
هاتھ	haath 'hand'	ہاتھ
ہونٹ	hōṣṭ 'lip'	ہونٹ

18.2. Examples of initial hee within words:

وہاں	vahāṇ 'there'	وہاں
رہنا	rehnaa 'to stay'	رہنا
باہر	baahar 'outside'	باہر
دہی	dahii 'curds'	دہی

18.3. When doocaṣmii hee is used in printing after daal, Daal, and Ree, the resulting combinations may symbolize either the aspirates /dh Dh Rh/, or the sequences /d/-vowel-/h/, /D/-vowel-/h/, and /R/-vowel-/h/. Handwritten Urdu, however, uses ه for aspiration and ہ for independent /h/.

دھوپ	dhuup 'sunshine'	دھوپ
دہلی	cf. dehlī 'Delhi'	دہلی
ادھر	idhar 'here'	ادھر
ڈھائی	Dhaaii '2 1/2'	ڈھائی
پڑھنا	paRhnaa 'to read'	پڑھنا

18.4. doocaṣmii hee has the medial shape ہ.

It is used only after bee, pee, tee, Tee, jiim, cee, kaaf, and ṣaaf, forming combinations which symbolize the aspirates /bh ph th Th jh ch kh gh/.

ابھی	abhii 'now'	ابھی
پھر	phir 'again'	پھر
ماٹھا	maathaa 'forehead'	ماٹھا
میٹھا	miithaa 'sweet'	میٹھا
جھگڑا	jhaḡṛaa 'quarrel'	جھگڑا
چھوٹا	chooṭaa 'small'	چھوٹا
کھانا	khaanaa 'food'	کھانا
گھر	ghar 'house'	گھر

L2.

18.5. gool hee has the medial shape + when printed and ~ or ~ when handwritten. It symbolizes independent /h/, as distinct from aspiration of a consonant.

بہت	bahut 'much'	بہت
بہن	behen 'sister'	بہن
نہیں	nahīī 'not'	نہیں
بہتر	behtar 'better'	بہتر

18.6. doocašmīī hee, forming symbols for aspirated consonants, has the final shape + .

ساتھ	saath 'with'	ساتھ
پیٹھ	piīTh 'back'	پیٹھ
مجھ	mujh 'me'	مجھ
کچھ	kuch 'some'	کچھ
آنکھ	āKkh 'eye'	آنکھ

18.7. gool hee, symbolizing /h/, has the final shape + when printed and ~ when handwritten.

جگہ	jagah 'place'	جگہ
منہ	mūh 'mouth'	منہ
وجہ	vajah 'reason'	وجہ
وظیفہ	vazīifah 'pension'	وظیفہ

18.8. At the end of certain words, however, gool hee symbolizes /aa/.

درجہ	darjaa 'class'	درجہ
راستہ	raastaa 'road'	راستہ
جمعہ	jumaa 'Friday'	جمعہ
گلاس	šīīšaa 'glass'	گلاس

18.9. doocašmīī hee has the independent shape + ; gool hee has the independent shape + . Both of these are used, inconsistently, in symbolizing final /dh Dh Rh/.

بدھ	budh 'Wednesday'	بدھ
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ڈیڑھ	DeeRh '1½'	ڈیڑھ
------	------------	------

18.10. gool hee is used consistently to symbolize /h/ at the end of words.

ماہ	maah 'month'	ماہ
واہ واہ	vaah vaah 'bravo!'	واہ واہ
بادشاہ	baadshaah 'king'	بادشاہ
گناہ	gunaaah 'sin'	گناہ

18.11. At the end of certain words, independent gool hee symbolizes /aa/.

زیادہ	zyaadaa 'more'	زیادہ
فائدہ	faaadaa 'benefit'	فائدہ
مشاعرہ	mušaaeraa 'poet's symposium'	مشاعرہ
مبوه	meevaa 'dried fruit'	مبوه

19. Ligatures

Ligatures are special combinations of two letters. They are limited to laam-alif, kaaf-alif, gaaf-alif, kaaf-laam, and gaaf-laam.

19.1. The combination laam-alif has the final shape لا.

نیلا	niilaa 'blue'	نیلا
جولائی	juulaa'i 'July'	جولائی
جلال	jalaal 'glory'	جلال
بڈا	billaa 'tomcat'	بڈا

19.2. laam-alif has the independent shape لا.

لانا	laanaa 'to bring'	لانا
لال	laal 'red'	لال
لاٹھی	laaThii 'big stick'	لاٹھی
کالا	kaalaa 'black'	کالا

19.3. The combination kaaf-alif has the final shape کا and the independent shape کا.

مکان	makaan 'house'	مکان
ہلکا	halkaa 'light (in weight)'	ہلکا
کاغذ	kaayaz 'paper'	کاغذ
لڑکا	laRkaa 'boy'	لڑکا

19.4. The combination gaaf-alif has the final shape ك and the independent shape گ.

مہنگا	mehəgaa	'expensive'	مہنگا
آونگا	aaŋgaa	'I will come'	آونگا
گال	gaal	'cheek'	گال
جاگا	jaagaa	'woke up'	جاگا

19.5. The combination kaaf-laam has the initial shape ک, the medial shape ک, the final shape کل, and the independent shape ک.

کھاری	kulhaaRii	'axe'	کھاری
نکلنا	nikalnaa	'to go out'	نکلنا
مشکل	muškil	'difficulty'	مشکل
کل	kal	'tomorrow'	کل

19.6. The combination gaaf-laam has the initial shape گ, the medial shape گ, the final shape گل, and the independent shape گ.

گڈ	gallaa	'flock'	گڈ
نگلنا	nigalnaa	'to swallow'	نگلنا
انگلی	unglii	'finger'	انگلی
گل	gul	'flower'	گل

19.7. The sequences kaaf-laam-alif and gaaf-laam-alif are usually printed with the laam-alif ligatures, but with separate kaaf and gaaf.

کلاس	klaas	'class'	کلاس
نکلا	niklaa	'went out'	نکلا
گلا	galaas	'throat'	گلا
گلاس	glaas	'glass'	گلاس

20. hamzaa

The sign ʾ, called hamzaa, is written over the second of two successive vowels within a word. Its appearance over vaoo and yee thus shows that these have the value of vowels, not consonants.

20.1. Examples of hamza with vaao are as follows:

دے	desoo 'monster'	دے
آؤ	aaoo 'come!'	آؤ
ہاؤں	paao 'feet'	ہاؤں
داؤد	daaoud 'David'	داؤد

20.2. When hamza appears with yee, an additional vertical stroke is used in the yee.

گئی	gaii 'went (fem. sg.)'	گئی
گئیں	gaii 'went (fem. pl.)'	گئیں
چائے	caae 'tea'	چائے
دائیں	daaee 'right'	دائیں

The suffix -iyee is written both with medial yee followed by final ba'ii yee, and with hamza added. When hamza is present, the dots below yee are often omitted.

ملے / ملے / ملے miliyee 'please meet'

20.3. hamza is written over a medial yee without dots, to indicate a short /a/ following another vowel:

فائدہ	faaedaa 'benefit'	فائدہ
جائداد	jaaedaa 'property'	جائداد

21. ta'ddiid

The sign ~ ta'ddiid symbolizes the doubling of a consonant over which it is written. It is often omitted, however.

امید	ummiid 'hope'	امید
بلا	billaa 'tomcat'	بلا
اچھا	acchaa 'good'	اچھا
ڈبا	Dabbaa 'box'	ڈبا

Infinitives of verbs with final /n/ in their stems are written not with ta'ddiid, but with two muun's:

جاننا	jaannaa 'to know'	جاننا
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22. tanviin

The sign * , called tanviin, is written over a final alif in certain adverbs. The combination symbolizes /an/.

فوراً	fauran 'at once'	فوراً
مثلاً	maslan 'for example'	مثلاً
قریباً	qariiban 'near'	قریباً
دفعتاً	dafatan 'suddenly'	دفعتاً

23. Numbers

The Urdu numerals are written from left to right. They are as follows:

1	eek 'one'	1
2	doo 'two'	2
3	tiin 'three'	3
4	caar 'four'	4
5	pāñc 'five'	5
6	chee 'six'	6
7	saat 'seven'	7
8	aaTh 'eight'	8
9	nau 'nine'	9
0	sifr 'zero'	0

24. Punctuation

The following symbols are used for punctuation and abbreviation:

-	period, full stop
❖ or ❖	ornamental form of full stop
,	comma
?	question mark
;	semicolon
ع or ا	beginning of verse
١	footnote 1
/	marks dates, as in جولائی / ۱۹ <u>umniis julaaii</u> 'July 19
—	<u>san</u> 'year', as in ۱۹۵۷
	<u>san umniis sau sataavan</u> '1957'
ھ	<u>hiirii</u> 'Mohammedan era', as in ۱۴۷۷ھ
	<u>san teeraa sau sathattar hiirii</u> '1377 A.H.'
.	<u>iisvii</u> 'Christian era', as in ۱۹۵۷ء
	<u>san umniis sau sataavan iisvii</u> '1957 A.D.'

In addition, English punctuation marks such as the exclamation point and the dash, are sometimes used in Urdu writing.

25. Sample Text

The following passage is taken from a booklet entitled thal, a publication of the Pakistan government, describing the Thal Development Project.

قل کی زرعی زمین ملل کرنے کا حق صرف کاشتکار مہاجروں کو دیا گیا ہے ۔
 مختلف اضلاع کے ڈپٹی کمشنر مہاجروں میں سے منتخب مجتہد بہت اور جنکاش لوگوں کو منتخب کر کے آباد کاری کے لئے قل روانہ کرتے ہیں۔
 ایک مقررہ پروگرام کے مطابق مہاجر قریب کے ریلوے اسٹیشن پر آؤتے ہیں۔
 یہاں سے سرکاری لاری انہیں ان کے آئندہ وطن کی طرف لے جاتی ہے۔ ایک ایسی منزل کی جانب جہاں ابتدا میں آرام و آسائش
 کی ماحول کی بجائے محنت و مشقت کی عرقریزی ان کی راہ دیکھ رہی ہوتی ہے ۔
 بہت آباد کار اپنے حقے کی زمین پر قبضہ پاتے ہی قل ڈویلیمنٹ اتھارٹی کی دستگیری سے اپنے روزمرہ کاموں میں مصروف ہو جاتے ہیں
 اسی طرح ایک پک کے بعد دوسرا آباد ہوتا چلا جاتا ہے ۔

Transcription

thal-kii zaraaii zamin haasil karnee-
 kaa haq sirf kashitkaar mohajir55-koo diyaa
 gayaa hai.

muxtalif azlaa-kee Diptii kamishnar
 mohajir55-m55-see mehenti buland-himmat
 aur jafaak55 loog55-koo muntaxib karkee
 aabaadkarii-kee liyee thal ravaanaa
 kartee hai.

ek muqarrarah prograam-kee mutaabiq
 mohajir qariib-kee reelvee isteesan-par
 aa utartee hai.

yah55-see sarkarii laarii unh55
 un-kee aaindaa vatan-kii taraf lee jaatii
 hai, ek zisii manzil-kii jaanib jah55
 ibtedaa-m55 aaraam-oo-aasaa55-kii raah55-
 kii bajaaee mehnat-oo-ma55aqqat-kii
 arqareezii un-kii raah deekh rahii hootii
 hai.

baahimmat aabaadkaar apnee hissee-kii
 zamin-par qabsah paatee-hii thal DavelapmanT
 athaariitii-kii dastgiri-see apnee

Translation

The right to acquire the arable land
 of Thal is given only to refugee
 cultivators.

The deputy commissioners of various
 districts select hard-working, staunch
 and industrious people and dispatch
 them to Thal for settlement.

According to a set program, the
 refugees alight at a nearby railway
 station.

From here, a government lorry takes
 them toward their future home, toward a
 destination where, in the beginning,
 instead of the comforts of rest and
 repose, the perspiration of labor and
 toil is awaiting them.

With courage the settlers take over
 their portion of land, and with the
 assistance of the Thal Development

48.

roozmarraa kaam⁵⁵-m⁵⁵ masruuf hoo jaatee
h⁵¹.

isii tarah eek cak-kee baad duusraa
aabaad hootaa calaa jaataa hai.

Authority they get busy with their
daily tasks.

In this manner, one site after
another is settled.